Independent Claim 2

Claim 2 is rejected under §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Fischer. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 recites, *inter alia*, that a non-slip surface is mounted to the step rear edge, from which the riser extends downward.

According to the Office Action, Fischer discloses an escalator step that includes an allegedly non-slip surface (citing nosing 3, 40) mounted to its rear edge. In the Office Action, it is apparently inferred that the nosing is non-slip based on the disclosure that the nosing, like the non-slip surface disclosed in the subject application, is formed of a synthetic resin. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Initially, Applicants note that the subject application does not simply indicate that the non-slip surface is formed of a synthetic resin, but specifies that the resin that is used have "a greater frictional resistance than metal" (e.g., page 4, lines 13-14).

On the other hand, there is no indication in Fischer that the "substantially rigid, but slightly resilient, plastic" (column 5, lines 53-54) would have such non-slip characteristics. As noted previously, Applicants understand the purpose of the nosing of Fischer to be to permit replacement of the step edge in some cases (see column 1, lines 35-42 and 45-48). In one embodiment (see column 2, line 66), the nosing can also serve the function of a warning strip. However, Applicants find nothing to suggest that it is provided as a non-slip surface.

Further, absent any objective indication to the contrary, it cannot be assumed that the plastic that is disclosed in Fischer has non-slip characteristics. The fact that the plastic nosing of Fischer and the non-slip surface of the subject application are both formed of synthetic resins does not provide any such indication. The terms "plastic" and "synthetic resin" each cover very broad classes of materials with widely varied characteristics, including coefficients of friction. In fact, some (such as fluoropolymers, for example) are known for having extremely low coefficients of